3. Progressive unbundling of transmission activity.

4. Authorization to the proposer may be cancelled with forfeiture of his security deposit, if the conditions of the authorization are not adhered to or the project is delayed beyond the stipulated milestone(s).

5. The designed pipeline capacity to be at least 25% percent more than the maximum capacity requirement of the proposer and all those who tie up for capacity. Such capacity would be made available on 'open access basis' at transportation rates not more than the ceiling rate approved by the regulator.

6. A National Advisory Council (NAC) shall be constituted by Government to advise the Government and the Regulator on all matters relating to this Policy.

7. The pipelines will be used by all players on non-discriminatory basis.

8. Tariff for the transmission pipeline and/or for the distribution pipelines would be approved by the Regulator as a ceiling.

9. Government to prepare a 10 year perspective plan in consultation with State Government to be revised from time to time. The Plan will be kept in mind while approving new pipelines.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No time frame has been fixed for this purpose.

Allocation of Natural Gas to Gujarat

103. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Ministerof PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to allocate 3.65 MMSCMD of Natural Gas for Power Projects to Gujarat will reference to a letter addressed to him on 15th December, 2004 by Gujarat MPs;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the production of natural gas in the country during the last five years from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004;

(d) the allocation of natural gas made to Gujarat during the last five years from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004; and

(e) whether it is a fact that 0.4 MMSCMD of additional gas allocation was promised in 2002, but has not been supplied till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM ANDNATURALGAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For gas supplied under Administered Price Mechanism (APM), the allocation far exceeds the availability of gas both from onshore as well as offshore sources in Gujarat. Thus, as against gas allocations from onshore fields in Gujarat of the order of 11.34 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD), actual gas availability is no more than around 4 MMSCMD. And as against gas allocations from offshore sources of the order of 49.33 MMSCMD, which includes 13.33 MMSCMD to consumers located in Gujarat, actual availability is restricted to around 37.5 MMSCMD, necessitating cuts in supplies. Additional gas from JV fields of Tapti offshore and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) may be available in future at market related price for which the customers have to directly tie up with the suppliers of gas.

(c) The production of natural gas from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004:

Year	Production in Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)
1999-2000	28.45
2000-2001	29.48
2001-2002	29.71
2002-2003	31.39
2003-2004	31.95

(d) Allocations/contracts for 2.46 MMSCMD of gas were made to various customers in Gujarat during the last five years from 1999-2000 to 2003-04.

(e) No such specific promise for new allocation was made by the Government, however, from 2004, 0.9 MMSCMD of R-LNG is being supplied by GAIL to power customers in Gujarat.

Foreign Companies in Oil Exploration

†104. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies are being invited for exploration of oil and gas from our wells;

(b) the names of companies which are showing interest in oil exploration; and

(c) the areas identified for the said exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUMAND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to attracting larger investments for accelerating efforts to explore and exploit the hydrocarbon reserves in the 26 sedimentary basins of the country, covering onland and offshore areas, the Government have been inviting bids from private companies including foreign companies on a regular basis since 1991. To give further impetus to exploration efforts, Government in 1997, formulated a New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), which provides equal opportunity to foreign companies and Indian companies (both public sector undertakings and private companies) to bid for exploration acreages.

Since, 1991 Government have signed Production Sharing Contracts in respect of 117 exploration blocks situated onland, offshore and in the deep water areas of the country.

The Government of India in January, 2005 offered 20 blocks (6 deepwater, 2 shallow water and 12 onland blocks) under the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V). These blocks fall in Kerala Konkan offshore, Mahanadi offshore, Krishna-Godavari offshore, Gulf of Cambay, Saurashtra offshore, Andaman-Nicobar, and onland in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

As on the 24th February, 2005, the 69 companies which have seen data at data centers or seen data online or have booked data rooms for data viewing for NELP-V blocks are listed at the statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.